

The ASA Welcomes Students from Valley View Junior High School

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10

Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant
Applicant Workshop
ASA Conference Room

December 23-26

December 31, January 2
ASA closed for holidays

December 3-23

The Great War:
Arkansas in World War I
Traveling Exhibit
Morrilton Depot Museum

December 21-January 19

African American Legislators
Exhibit
Garland County Library
Hot Springs

January 17

From Pen to Podium: ASA
Quarterly Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Kenneth C. Barnes
Historic Arkansas Museum

Over the last few years, the ASA has been expanding its educational programs. We have created lesson plans and held teacher workshops on the use of primary sources in the classroom. The ASA considers the promotion of history education, in particular Arkansas history and how our state factors into national and global narratives, among its most important roles.

Because of this, we are reaching out to the education community so Arkansas teachers will know that the State Archives is here to support them. This month, we were honored to have students from Valley View Junior High in Jonesboro visit our facility. On November 17, 120 students visited, splitting their day between the ASA and the State Capitol.

ASA staff shared many interesting items from our vast collection with the students. They saw the original copies of two of our state constitutions, the Quapaw Treaty, items from the Japanese internment camps, World War I documents and artifacts, Civil War collections, and items regarding women's suffrage. As the students progressed in their tour through our collections, they learned the importance of preserving our documentary past. Tatyana Oyinloye, African American History Coordinator at the ASA, showed the students one of her favorite items in our collection, a recipe from the Cornelia Kirkley Foster Collection. "It was amazing to see the students' reaction to hearing the recipe," Oyinloye recalls, "They really felt that they were seeing a genuine part of Arkansas's history by reading it."

Many teachers and students might not consider an archives as a destination for field trips. Dr. Lisa Speer, ASA Director, suggests that the Arkansas State Archives is much like a museum, with field trips requiring perhaps a little more advance notice for the archives staff. "Unlike our sister agencies such as the Old State House Museum or the Historic Arkansas Museum," says Speer, "we don't have a lot of collections out on display at any one time due to lack of exhibit space." If teachers are interested in bringing groups to the State Archives, though, Speer continued, "all they need to do is contact us to arrange a visit. We are happy to accommodate tours and student groups conducting research with some advance planning."

In this age when educational standards require students to use primary sources in the

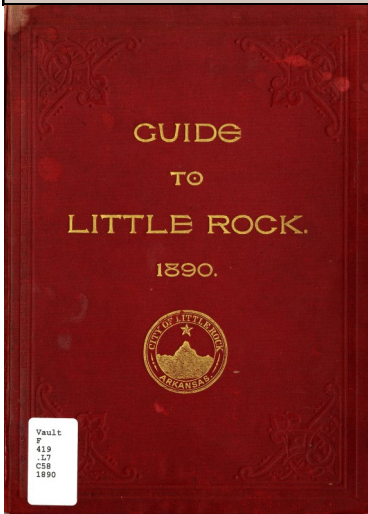
classroom, the ASA and other archives can play an increasingly helpful role for teachers looking for classroom material. Brian Irby, Archival Assistant for Outreach, says, "Students preparing for History Day are particularly encouraged to come in and let us help them find materials for their projects, or use our [online digital collections](#)." Irby notes, though, that the digital collections represent only a small fraction of the ASA's holdings.

A visit to the ASA may give students an appreciation of their history, and an understanding of the role that archives play in preserving that history. Additionally, the ASA can help students develop their research skills. The ASA invites educators to consider bringing your students to our facility for a field trip. To schedule a group visit, contact Brian Irby at brian.irby@arkansas.gov or call 501-682-6900.



Children reading at Lake Dick, circa 1940

Staff Pick



This month we feature Archival Assistant Brian Irby's pick of an 1890 travel guide book to Little Rock.

Why choose a travel guide for your pick? I've looked at travel guides in the past and found them very interesting. The guidebook is meant to show the city in the best light, so it is fascinating to see what is emphasized. For instance, among the sites recommended for travelers to visit is the state penitentiary and the state hospital. Could you imagine visiting those on your vacation?

What can a researcher learn from looking at a guide book such as this? One great thing is that there are drawings of a lot of buildings. Often we have researchers who are looking for photographs of buildings and this might be the only known image of

those buildings. Additionally, since the book can be seen as a snapshot of Little Rock as it was in 1890, it holds a lot of historical value. It can tell us a lot about Little Rock's culture in the late 19th century.

Are there similar guidebooks at the ASA for other cities? The railroad companies often produced similar guidebooks for cities on their routes. Many of Arkansas's larger cities also have guidebooks produced by their city chambers of commerce.

Black History Commission News



Arise performing at the Greenwood Performing Arts Center, 2016

Anyone who has done much research knows that no research project is ever actually finished. There are always new questions that come to light, new avenues to be explored. This month we present just such a case. A few months ago, we wrote about a Sykes grant winner's project dealing with the historic Norwood-Mt. Olive Cemetery in Fort Smith and the life of Henry Norwood. The South Sebastian County Historical Society, which was behind the

original project, has returned to the topic to further examine the world of Henry Norwood, more specifically his early life in slavery. The new project, "Songs of Hope and Inspiration: The Hidden Meaning of Spirituals," analyzes traditional songs that enslaved people sang and reveals the meanings behind these songs.

As part of the project, the South Sebastian County Historical Society invited the singing group Arise to perform a concert of the songs at the Greenwood Performing Arts Center on September 17, 2016. The songs ranged from the familiar "Wade In the Water" to the more obscure "I'm Gonna Sing Until the Spirit Moves in My Heart." Most special to the project was that one of the featured singers was Gerald Norwood, grandson of Henry Norwood.

Such projects are made possible by a generous grant from the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant Program. If you have an idea for a project that deals with the preservation or promotion of Arkansas's African American history and would like to find out more about the grant program, please contact Tatyana Oyinloye, the grants coordinator at tatyana.oyinloye@arkansas.gov or call 501-682-6892.

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CLOSED STATE HOLIDAYS

From the Director



On November 11, the United States commemorated Veterans' Day. Here in Arkansas, we marked the occasion with a press conference of the World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee to preview the official website of the commemoration. The website, which can be found at www.wwiarkansas.com and is sponsored by the Department of Arkansas Heritage, provides the public with a variety of ways to participate in Arkansas's commemoration of the "Great War" between now and the end of 2018.

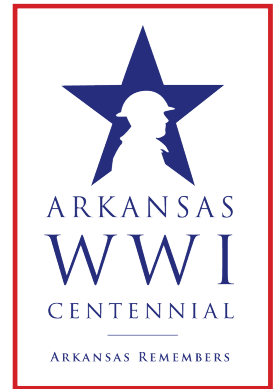
Mark Christ and his crew have done an excellent job of designing a website that provides resources for studying the impact of the war on Arkansans, provides avenues for getting involved in the commemoration, and allows for sharing memories of those impacted by this first global conflict.

The website features a variety of resources that educators undoubtedly will find useful as they teach students about the war, its causes and the impact it had at home and abroad. The site includes a detailed timeline of events, a bibliography, a list of Arkansas units in the war, lesson plans, and already features a number of podcasts on topics including building Camp Pike, women's work on behalf of the troops, the Spanish flu epidemic and much more!

As with the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the WWI commemoration will include a sanctioning process if your town or organization is hosting an event to mark the centennial of US involvement in the war. On the website you may apply to use the commemoration's official logo (shown here), and to have your event listed on the site's calendar.

One of my favorite features of the site is the "Memories" link, where members of the general public are encouraged to share Arkansas related images of the war. Don't forget that the Arkansas State Archives also welcomes donations of World War I-related material. Since the Veterans Day press conference, several people have contacted us about donations, and we hope to hear from many more of you!

The First World War is a conflict that doesn't get the historical recognition that it warrants. I look forward to seeing our understanding and knowledge of its impact grow over the next two years. — Dr. Lisa K. Speer



News from NEARA



NEARA is happy to announce that the King family papers are processed and ready for research. Charles, Wilma, and their son Robert King were local residents. Charles worked in the Pocahontas school system for nearly a decade before they relocated to Alaska where he continued to work as an educator. After retiring, Charles and Wilma moved back to Pocahontas to be close to their family. The couple was avid in genealogy research compiling extensive information on their family tree. Their eldest son, Robert, served in the military and retired to Pocahontas, as well. He, too, was intensely interested in

genealogy and collaborated on research projects with his parents.

With the deaths of Charles, Wilma, and Robert, the remaining family members chose to donate their family papers to NEARA. The collection holds a wealth of genealogical information on the King family lines as well as personal records. NEARA is grateful to donors like the King family without whom NEARA's collections would not grow. Through generous donations of family, business, or organizational records, NEARA is able to offer new and unique research material to our patrons. If you are interested in perusing the King family papers, or have questions about donating to NEARA, please contact us: 870.878.6521 or northeast.archives@arkansas.gov.

News from SARA

November is National American Indian Heritage Month and is a time to focus on the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans. Here at SARA, there are materials available to assist patrons in exploring the history and heritage of Native Americans of Southwest Arkansas and the contributions they have made to the area.

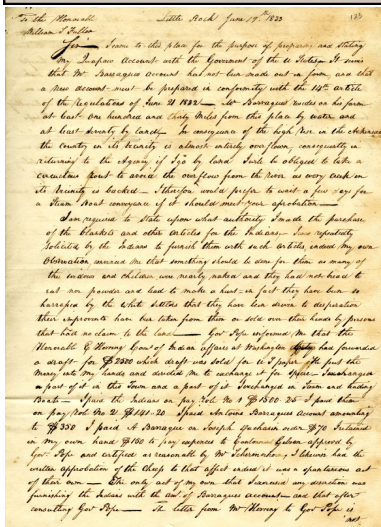
Among SARA's holdings is *Paths of our Children* by George Sabo III, *The Indians of Arkansas* by Charles R. McGimsey III, and *Crossroads of the Past* by Frank F. Schambach. SARA also holds a number of manuscript collections, as well as vertical files with information on native peoples and how to go about researching one's Native American ancestry.



Border marker between Arkansas and Choctaw lands placed in 1877

Though primarily the tribes among the Caddo Confederations originally settled in Southwest Arkansas, other tribes like the Choctaw passed through in the period known as Indian Removal, which lasted circa 1830s-1870s. Among SARA's microfilm holdings are the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory, as well as Records Relating to the Identification of Mississippi Choctaw, and Letterbook of the Natchitoches-Sulphur Fork Factory, a trading post established for trade with the Indians and located at the confluence of the Red and the Sulphur Rivers in the early 1800s.

If you have an interest in studying Native American History, or you think you may have Native American ancestry, and you have reason to believe those ancestors traveled through Southwest Arkansas, we welcome you to plan a research trip to SARA. You never know what you might find!



Letter to William Fulton regarding pay for the Quapaws and how they were being treated, 1833, from the L.C. Gulley Collection

November is Native American Heritage Month. The ASA holds a large collection of materials related to the history of Native Americans in Arkansas. A number of our earliest records in our collection deal with some of the Native Americans who were living in Arkansas and those who migrated here during the Trail of Tears. The L.C. Gulley collection contains a number of letters from Native American leaders to Arkansas's territorial officials discussing the treatment of Native Americans in the state. There are also a number of maps that show Native American territorial lands.

Many of our patrons are researching their Native American ancestry and we also have a number of resources that may help. The ASA has an index to the Dawes Rolls, a listing of Native Americans created in the 1890s. The rolls are helpful in determining to which tribe an ancestor may have belonged.

November Donations and Accessions

ASA

Standridge Kith an' Kin Family History Newsletter, Vol. 13 no. 4, Fall 2016

Glenwood High School Class of 1962 Reunion: 54 Years

Basin Park Hotel: Eureka Springs

Romancing Eureka: We Found It!, by Dan Ellis Glad News

Forty Years Missionary in Arkansas, by Father E.J. Weibel
Around the World with a Camera, by Leslie-Judge Company

We always receive more material than we are able to list in our newsletter. For a full listing, see our blog

<http://arkansasstatearchives.blogspot.com/2016/11/acquisitions-and-accessions-for.html>

We appreciate the generous support of our donors!

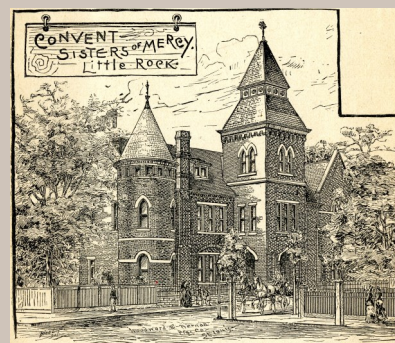
In our Staff Pick, Archival Assistant Brian Irby told us about the 1890 Guidebook for the city of Little Rock. Here are a few more images from the guidebook.



Street scene looking west on Markham Street



Little Rock's Medical College on 2nd Street



Convent for the Sisters of Mercy who founded Mount St. Mary's Academy



Advertisement for the carriage builder, J.W. Fein. Apparently he does good work.



Looking south at the city from across the river



Little Rock's Deaf Mute Institute